

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

May 27, 2014

Volume 26, Number 5

DOE, SCDHEC and EPA have agreed to Preliminary Cease Waste Removal in H-Area Tank Farm, Waste Tank 12H at the Savannah River Site (corrected version).

The Department of Energy (DOE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) signed a Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) in support of environmental remediation activities at the Savannah River Site (SRS). One of the conditions in the FFA is that all three agencies must agree waste removal activities may cease and tank stabilization can commence.

This decision process occurs in two phases. The first phase is the preliminary cease waste removal phase, where DOE, SCDHEC and EPA mutually agree that waste removal activities can cease in order to enter into the sampling and analysis phase to completely analyze and characterize the residual material remaining in the tank. This preliminary decision to move on to the sampling and analysis phase is non-binding and does not complete the FFA requirement to cease waste removal.

DOE met with SCDHEC and EPA on Thursday, December 19, 2013 to discuss details of waste removal efforts and preliminary data concerning residual material in Waste Tank 12H. The three agencies, upon review of the information, tentatively agreed that further waste removal efforts are not technically practicable from an engineering perspective. The preliminary agreement to cease waste removal activities prompts DOE to perform sampling and analysis activities in Tank 12H.

Following characterization of the residual material in the tank, a tank-specific closure module, under the Industrial Wastewater Construction Permit will be developed for Tank 12H and will be submitted to SCDHEC and EPA and provided for public comment to inform the final decision to cease waste removal. Once the closure module is approved and the final decision to cease waste removal is agreed to by the three agencies, the second phase of the decision is satisfied. The Tank 12H Closure Module in the H-Area Tank Farm is not expected to be completed until 2015.

Once DOE, SCDHEC and EPA agree that it is not technically practicable, from an engineering perspective, to continue waste removal activities DOE may proceed with operational closure of Tank 12H. Tank 12H is one of 29 tanks in H-Area Tank Farm planned for closure.

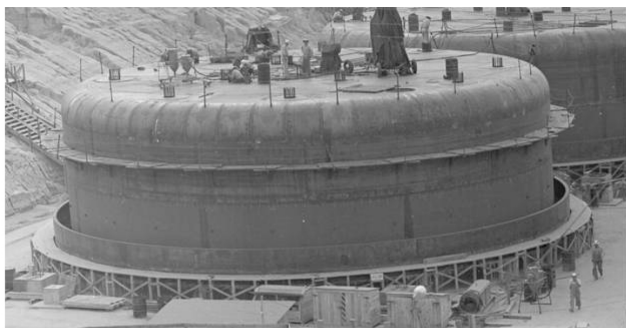
Continued on Page 2

The Savannah River Site Environmental Bulletin

Page 2

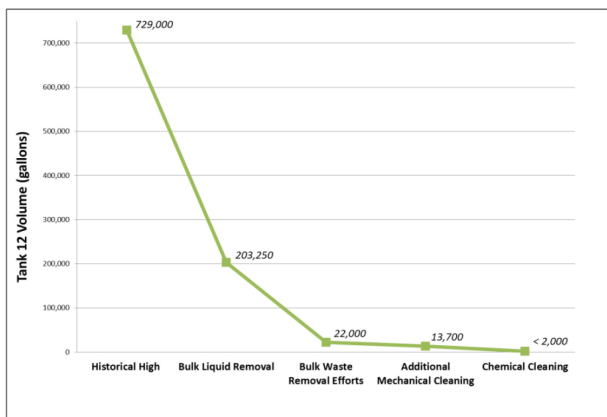
May 27, 2014

Volume 26, Number 5



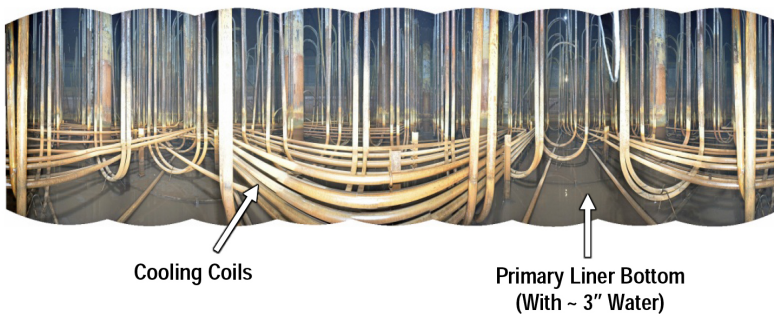
Type I Tank Primary and Secondary Liner Construction

Tank 12H, constructed in 1953, began receiving waste from the H-Canyon in September 1956. At its highest level, Tank 12H contained 729,000 gallons of waste. Operational use of Tank 12H for waste receipts ceased by May 1974.



Waste Removal and Tank Cleaning

Multiple waste removal and cleaning campaigns were performed from 1976 to 2013, reducing the total residual inventory to less than 2,000 gallons remaining in the primary and less than 30 gallons in the annular region. A detailed volume determination is in progress.



Panoramic View of Tank Interior



Tank 12H
Annulus Region

More detailed information on the remaining residual material in the primary liner and annulus will be provided in the Tank 12H Closure Module. The Tank 12H Closure Module is expected to be available in 2015.

For additional information, contact: Dean Campbell, Savannah River Remediation LLC, Public Involvement
Savannah River Site, Building 766 H, Aiken, South Carolina 29808
(803) 208-8270 dean.campbell@srs.gov

The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this
or other environmental and compliance
activities at SRS, please contact:

Janet Griffin
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Aiken, S.C. 29808
(803) 952-6658
email: janet.griffin@srs.gov

Mailing List Information

☐ Add to mail list ☐ Correct my address ☐ Remove from mail list

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Mail to: SRS Environmental Bulletin
Savannah River Site, Building 730-1B
Aiken, SC 29808

Save a stamp! E-mail your changes to janet.griffin@srs.gov



130C00040



The SRS Environmental Bulletin

Savannah River Site
Building 730-1B
Aiken, S.C. 29808